

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richards

Serial No.: Unassigned Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith Examiner: Unassigned

Title: IMPROVEMENTS TO FEEDING BOTTLES

Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(a)

To: Box PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, following the title please insert:

-- Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application claims priority from Great Britain application 00.29883.6, filed July 12, 2000, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3-11, 13-16, 18, 20 and 25 and cancel claims 31-33.

3. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in Claim 1, in which the bottle body includes a base end, and the air inlet is provided at or near the base end.
4. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, in which when the bottle is held in one hand in use, the stopper is operable by one finger of the hand.
5. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, in which the stopper assembly is pivotal to move the stopper between the closed and open positions.
6. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, in which the stopper assembly is releasably attachable to the bottle body.
7. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, in which the stopper assembly includes an aperture alignable with the air inlet.
8. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, in which the stopper assembly further includes a stopper retainer movable between a first position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the open position, and a second position in which the stopper retainer permits movement of the stopper between the open and closed positions.
9. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, in which the stopper assembly further includes a stopper retainer moveable between a first position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the open position, and a second position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the closed position.
10. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, further including a teat assembly, the teat assembly being reversible between a drinking position and a sealed position.

11. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a liner receivable in the bottle body and having an air inlet formation cooperating with the bottle body inlet.
13. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 11, in which the air inlet formation is provided on an insert in the base of the liner.
14. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in any of claim 11, in which the liner is pre-filled with liquid and sealed.
15. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 11, in which the bottle body includes a lower portion and an upper portion, including said open end, movably attached to said lower portion between two or more angular positions.
16. ***(Amended)*** A stopper assembly for a bottle as claimed in claim 1, the stopper assembly comprising a pivot arm bearing a stopper and a biasing element for biasing the stopper to a closed position.
18. ***(Amended)*** A stand as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the feeding bottle comprises:
a bottle body including an open end for mounting a teat assembly, and an air inlet; and
a stopper assembly, the stopper assembly being mounted to the bottle body and including a stopper manually moveable between a closed position in which the air inlet is closed by the stopper, and an open position in which the air inlet is open.
20. ***(Amended)*** A stand as claimed in any claim 17, further including a heater arranged to heat the bottle body contents.
25. ***(Amended)*** A feeding and/or drinking vessel including a mouthpiece assembly retaining formation and a mouthpiece assembly as claimed in claim 23 reversibly retained to the retaining formation.

Remarks

Claims 3-11, 13-16, 18, 20 and 25 were amended and claims 31-33 were canceled in order to bring the form thereof into compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and U.S. patent law, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the claims were amended to eliminate multiple dependencies.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to claims 3-11, 13-16, 18, 20 and 25. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him/her at the number provided.

Dated: December 7, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

3. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in Claim 1 [or Claim 2], in which the bottle body includes a base end, and the air inlet is provided at or near the base end.
4. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any preceding claim] in which when the bottle is held in one hand in use, the stopper is operable by one finger of the hand.
5. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any preceding claim,] in which the stopper assembly is pivotal to move the stopper between the closed and open positions.
6. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] in which the stopper assembly is releasably attachable to the bottle body.
7. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] in which the stopper assembly includes an aperture alignable with the air inlet.
8. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any preceding claim,] in which the stopper assembly further includes a stopper retainer movable between a first position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the open position, and a second position in which the stopper retainer permits movement of the stopper between the open and closed positions.
9. ***(Amended)*** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any of Claims 1 to 7,] in which the stopper assembly further includes a stopper retainer moveable between a first position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the open position, and a second position in which the stopper retainer retains the stopper in the closed position.

10. **(Amended)** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any preceding claim] further including a teat assembly, the teat assembly being reversible between a drinking position and a sealed position.

11. **(Amended)** A bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any preceding claim] further comprising a liner receivable in the bottle body and having an air inlet formation cooperating with the bottle body inlet.

13. **(Amended)** A bottle as claimed in claim 11, [or claim 12] in which the air inlet formation is provided on an insert in the base of the liner.

14. **(Amended)** A bottle as claimed in any of claim 11, [claims 11 to 13] in which the liner is pre-filled with liquid and sealed.

15. **(Amended)** A bottle as claimed in claim 11, [any of claims 11 to 14] in which the bottle body includes a lower portion and an upper portion, including said open end, movably attached to said lower portion between two or more angular positions.

16. **(Amended)** A stopper assembly for a bottle as claimed in claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims,] the stopper assembly comprising a pivot arm bearing a stopper and a biasing element for biasing the stopper to a closed position.

18. **(Amended)** A stand as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the feeding bottle comprises: a bottle body including an open end for mounting a teat assembly, and an air inlet; and a stopper assembly, the stopper assembly being mounted to the bottle body and including a stopper manually moveable between a closed position in which the air inlet is closed by the stopper, and an open position in which the air inlet is open [adapted to support a bottle as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 15].

20. **(Amended)** A stand as claimed in any claim 17, [one of Claims 17 to 19] further including a heater arranged to heat the bottle body contents.

25. **(Amended)** A feeding and/or drinking vessel including a mouthpiece assembly retaining formation and a mouthpiece assembly as claimed in claim 23 [or 24] reversibly retained to the retaining formation.